CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for processing a set of messages, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a first memory operable to store messages;

(b) a recorder operable to record an outgoing message by a user for a specific client, the outgoing message including a question previously posed by the specific client and a response to the question, the recorder recording the outgoing message in the first memory;

(c) an input operable to receive an incoming call from a calling party;

(d) a comparator operable to compare calling party information of the incoming call to a client list;

(e) a menu operable to identify members of the client list and to identify a location in the first memory for each of the members; and

(f) a player operable to play the outgoing message to the calling party if the calling party information matches to the specific client in the client list, the recorder being operable to record an incoming message from the calling party in the first memory after the outgoing message is played, the incoming message being associated with the outgoing message in the first memory, wherein the user can retrieve the outgoing message and the incoming message as a unit.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further including an output operable to redirect the incoming call to an answering machine if the calling party information does not match to any specific client in the client list.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a second memory, the second memory operable to store at least a portion of the incoming message.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the second memory is operable to store at least a portion of the outgoing message, the at least a portion of the outgoing message being

associated with the at least a portion of the incoming message.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first memory is a tape.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the tape includes one or more segments for different calling parties, each of the segments including a first portion for a question, a second portion for a response to the question, and a third portion for a reply to the response.

7. A client meter for use by a calling party in a messaging system, the client meter being provided to the calling party by a called party, the client meter comprising:

a timing counter to identify timing information associated with a multi-part message, the timing information being provided by the called party that prepares a first segment of the multi-part message;

a start button to start the timing counter; and

a reverse button to reverse the timing counter;

wherein the timing counter is operable to supply the timing information to the calling party, thereby facilitating recording of a second segment of the multi-part message by the calling party, and the called party determines the timing information prior to providing the client meter to the calling party.

8. The client meter of claim 7, wherein first segment has a first portion including a question and a second portion including an answer to the question.

9. The client meter of claim 8, wherein the second segment has a third portion including a reply to the answer.

10. The client meter of claim 9, wherein first portion, the second portion and the third portion are represented by equal amounts of time on the timing counter.

11. The client meter of claim 7, wherein the called party records the first segment of the multi-part message in

a memory prior to providing the client meter to the calling party, and the calling party records the second segment of the multi-part message in the memory after listening to the first segment.